

PA Chesapeake Champions... Exploring Our Connections to the Bay



National Geographic Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Initiative

Introducing a new Chesapeake Bay education initiative for middle school teachers in Pennsylvania's Bay watershed. We hope you will join us to help advance education about the Bay, and its connection to students in Pennsylvania. **PA Chesapeake Champions** is part of a multi-state, Bay-wide project!

• 2012–2013 School Year with Follow-up and Extensions in 2013–2014 •

This project is funded by the National Geographic Society and administered in Pennsylvania by the PA Alliance for Geographic Education in collaboration with Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies, PA Association of Conservation Districts, the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring and regional partners listed below.

Benefits for Participating Schools—

- An opportunity to increase student awareness and understanding of local connections to the Chesapeake Bay.
- Teachers receive:
 - GIS training and follow-up support
 - Free classroom materials
 - Membership in a watershed-wide professional network specific to the project
 - \$500 stipend at the conclusion of the project
- Each participating school receives National Geographic recognition in May, 2013 through a photo press release and presentation of a "PA Chesapeake Champion School" banner for display.

Primary Project Goals—

- To enhance teacher knowledge about Pennsylvania's influence on the Chesapeake Bay by using field-based experiences and technology, including National Geographic's FieldScope online data base.
- To facilitate active engagement of middle school students in collecting and analyzing data in their own watershed, so that they develop a lasting understanding of the scale of connections between their local watershed and the Chesapeake Bay.

How to Become Involved—

- *Who is eligible?* Middle school teachers (grades 6–8) from public & private PA schools located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Prefer equal number of science & social studies teachers per team.
- Teams of 2–4 teachers per school will be selected to participate in professional development and curriculum activities during the 2012–2013 school year.
- *Professional Development:* All participating teachers **must attend** two workshops at Shippensburg University (February 23 and March 23, 2013) as well as engage with colleagues in a weekly online forum from November, 2012 through May, 2013.

Interested? Here's how to apply:

Teacher Team Applications available September 1, 2012—must be submitted by September 28, 2012.
Selected teachers will be notified by October 19, 2012.

More info: Dr. Jan Smith, Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Alliance for Geographic Education at Shippensburg University: jssmit@ship.edu or 717-477-1757

